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ON TAP

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Going Green: Tap Water versus Bottled Water

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT BOTTLED WATER

On an annual basis, Americans consume a total of 8.6 billion gallons of bottled water. At this rate, buying bottled water can be an extremely expensive habit. This massive consumption of bottled water is interesting, especially since a majority of all bottled water originates from the same water sources that municipalities and water districts provide; this water is commonly known as tap water.

TAP WATER AND TCWD'S WATER SUPPLIES

It is interesting to note there are some significant differences between the requirements placed upon TCWD and the tap water it produces, and the water bottled by private bottling companies.

First, the final product produced by TCWD in its water distribution system is required to meet stringent treatment standards under the State Department of Public Health. With regard to private water bottling companies, this may or may not be required; it depends on their water source.

The testing required of TCWD by the Department of Health include routine testing for a variety of pathogenic bacteria levels, whether it is annually, quarterly, or in some cases, on a daily basis to ensure its quality. Also, on an annual basis TCWD is required to provide a water quality report, called a Consumer Confidence Report. This report includes the results of all the testing of the various water sources conducted throughout the previous year. Again, this may or may not be required of private water bottling companies; it depends on their water source.

Prior to leaving the Water Treatment Plant and entering the distribution system, TCWD disinfects the water supply with Chlorine, a naturally existing element that has proven to be an extremely effective method of

protecting precious drinking water resources from bacterial and viral contamination. Properly treated drinking water has wiped out instances of water-borne diseases like typhoid fever, cholera and dysentery in America and other developed countries. Finally, if the water supply quality is ever compromised, TCWD can preserve public safety by physically isolating the problem in the distribution system before it ever reaches your home.

DISTRICT BOTTLED WATER

TCWD's wells produce water that is naturally free from contaminants due to its rural location and the lack of any upstream development. Coordinating with an independent laboratory, TCWD's water department and engineering staff determined the wonderful taste of this well water would be preserved with a treatment process of filtration through granular activated carbon, followed by ultra violet light disinfection, fine media filtration, and finished water ozone disinfection.

As a community service, TCWD provides its high-quality bottled water without cost to non-profit, non-religious organizations for events within cities and the unincorporated area of Trabuco Canyon served by TCWD only.

Quantities are limited, and requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. A formal request must be made by submitting a completed application to TCWD. If you happen to be in the neighborhood, feel free to stop by and enjoy a bottle of TCWD's water.

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write
Michael Perea, TCWD's *ON TAP*

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MAY IS WATER AWARENESS MONTH



COME CELEBRATE WITH US!



**Please join our Board of Directors and Staff at the
District Administrative Operations & Control Facility at
32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon**

SATURDAY, MAY 1st at 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Conservation booth with information for
indoor/outdoor wise water use

California Friendly Landscape and artificial turf
displays

Water District trucks and Heavy Duty equipment

Hands-on kids crafts and fun stuff to take home

Irrigation and leak detection information

Complimentary hot dogs/chips/sodas

See the “Amazing Mole”, and other water and
wastewater demonstrations

Try out our new dual flush toilets

Find out why and how we hydrant flush

Come see how TCWD and OCFA have coordinated fire
suppression strategies

Toilet Talk and the perpetual leak